

REPUBLIC OF VANUATU
BILL FOR THE
GOVERNMENT (AMENDMENT)
ACT NO. OF 2022

Explanatory Note

This Bill amends the Government Act [CAP 243] (“the Act”) to ensure that there is efficient and effective management of government policies.

Since the enactment of the Act in 1998, the Government has faced a lot of challenges to efficiently and effectively manage its policy priorities.

Therefore, the Government sees the need to make necessary amendments to the Act to address these challenges.

The change of the name of the Department of Strategic Policy, Planning and Aid Coordination to the Central Bureau of Policy and Planning (“the Bureau”) reflects the key function of this Bureau as the coordinating mechanism for national policy and planning.

The Bill establishes the Bureau and provides for its functions such as to coordinate the Government’s policy and planning and to ensure these are in line with the Government’s policy priorities. The Bureau will also have a key function to measure the progress of the country in achieving the development policies and to report to the Development Committee of Officials (“the DCO”) and the Council of Ministers (“the COM”).

The Bill further provides for the functions of the Director, such as to translate government policies into workable plans that Ministries can align into their respective plans. This is currently a challenge as each Ministry develops its respective plan, which are all different, therefore, making it difficult for the Government to achieve its policies. The Director will also have a main function to scrutinize COM papers submitted to the DCO for policy relevance.

Prime Minister



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BILL FOR THE GOVERNMENT (AMENDMENT) ACT NO. OF 2022

An Act to amend the Government Act [CAP 243].

Be it enacted by the President and Parliament as follows-

1 Amendment

The Government Act [CAP 243] is amended as set out in the Schedule.

2 Commencement

This Act commences on the day on which it is published in the Gazette.

SCHEDULE

AMENDMENTS OF GOVERNMENT ACT [CAP 243]

1 Section 3

Insert in its correct alphabetical position:

““Bureau” means the Central Bureau of Policy and Planning established under section 15A;

“Director” means the Director of the Central Bureau of Policy and Planning;”

2 Paragraph 13(1)(e)

Delete “of the Department of Strategic Management”

3 After Part 3

Insert

“PART 3A – CENTRAL BUREAU OF POLICY AND PLANNING

Division 1 Establishment, functions and powers of the Bureau

15A. Establishment of the Central Bureau of Policy and Planning

The Central Bureau of Policy and Planning is established.

15B. Functions of the Bureau

The Bureau has the following functions:

- (a) to develop a national policy and planning system; and
- (b) to coordinate the implementation of government policies and programmes; and
- (c) to review all sectoral policies and provide strategic directions; and
- (d) to review and ensure all budget narratives are aligned with government policies; and
- (e) to examine all government development project submissions; and

- (f) to ensure all development cooperation are linked and aligned with government policy priorities; and
- (g) to review all sectoral corporate plans and business plans to ensure the plans are aligned with government policies; and
- (h) to monitor all national programmes and projects to ensure alignment with government policies; and
- (i) to produce annual development reports on the Government's development status and progress; and
- (j) to carry out any other functions as may be conferred on the Bureau under this Act or any other Act.

15C. Powers of the Bureau

The Bureau has the power to do all things necessary or convenient to be done for or in connection with the performance of its functions under this Act.

Division 2 Functions and powers of the Director

15D. Functions of the Director

The Director has the following functions:

- (a) to ensure all policy submissions prior to being considered by the DCO and the Council are examined for policy relevance; and
- (b) to coordinate the operational level or output based planning of the Government; and
- (c) to develop a system for compliance with policy directives from the Prime Minister and the Council; and
- (d) to carry out any other functions as may be conferred on the Director under this Act or any other Act.

15E. Powers of the Director

- (1) The Director has the power to do all things that are necessary or convenient to be done for or in connection with the performance of his or her functions under this Act.
- (2) Without limiting subsection (1), the Director has the following powers:

- (a) for the purpose of producing the annual development reports, to request reports from Ministries, Development Partners and individuals; and
- (b) to make recommendations on programme activities to ensure compliance with government policy priorities.”

4 Transitional and Savings provision

- (1) Any act or thing done in the name of the Department of Strategic Management before the commencement of this Act is taken to have been done in the name of the Bureau on or after the commencement of this Act.
- (2) The person holding the office of the Director of Strategic Management immediately before the commencement of this Act is to continue for the remainder of his term as the Director of the Bureau on the same terms and conditions of service with accrued and accruing entitlements.
- (3) The officers of the Department of Strategic Management who were employed or engaged immediately before the commencement of this Act are to continue in office as officers of the Bureau on the same terms and conditions of service with accrued and accruing entitlements.